

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,584,207 to Paul et al. (hereinafter Paul). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Paul fails to anticipate Applicant's claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a motor supporting device comprising a motor accommodating section accommodating and holding a motor therein, a gear holding section, and a covering section, which is monolithically formed with the motor accommodating section and flatly covers the gear holding section.

For example, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 7, a motor supporting device 7 according to one embodiment of the present invention comprises a motor accommodating section 8 accommodating and holding a motor 5 therein, a gear holding section 9, and a covering section 10, which is monolithically formed with the motor accommodating section 8 and flatly covers the gear holding section 9. That is, the motor 5 is accommodated and held within the motor accommodating section 8.

The Examiner asserts that motor receiving opening 154 is a motor accommodating portion for holding a motor therein.¹ However, motor receiving opening 154 does not hold the motor therein. Instead, the motor is mounted to the integrally-formed housing member 130 by screws 163 that extend through holes 160, 162 in the cover 132. Further, the motor 122 includes a shaft to which motor gear 120 is attached, and it is the motor shaft and gear 120 that extend through the opening 154 so that the gear 120 can mesh with third gear 118. Moreover, the motor 122 extends away from one face of the housing cover 132. See Fig. 1. Therefore, contrary to the

¹ Office Action at page 2, item 3, paragraph 3.

Examiner's assertion, Paul fails to disclose a motor accommodating portion accommodating and holding a motor therein, as set forth in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Paul.

With respect to claim 2, first, Applicant's arguments as set forth on page 3 of the Amendment filed on November 1, 2002 are still pertinent and, therefore, are incorporated herein by reference. Further, the Examiner's interpretation of Applicant's argument is wrong.

The Examiner asserts that the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself.² However, Applicant does not argue that the manner of making Paul distinguishes the present invention from that in Paul. In contrast, Applicant discusses the manner in which Paul is assembled so as to show how the structure is arranged. That is, because Paul is assembled so that the housing cover 132 is fitted to the member 130 before the motor assembly 122 is attached, the housing cover 132 cannot be structured so as to abut an end portion of the gear 120 provided on the drive shaft of the motor 124. In other words, the housing cover 132, and in particular the opening 154, must be sized so as to allow the gear 120 to pass therethrough unimpeded so that the gear 120 may mesh with gear 118, which is already in the housing 130 as enclosed by the cover 132. Thus, Applicant cites the manner in which Paul is assembled in order to show the arrangement of the structure therein—that the cover 132 does not abut the gear 120—not so as to distinguish the present claims therefrom as based on method of assembly. Further, in fact, Paul's specification discloses nothing with respect to the end of gear 120 disposed on the drive shaft of the motor, let alone that it is abutted by any portion of the housing or covering section.

For at least any one of the above reasons, claim 2 is not anticipated by Paul. Likewise, dependent claims 3 and 6 are not anticipated by Paul.

² Office Action at page 5, item 12.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

• The Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, and 8, under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul in view of US Patent 5,654,847 to Yagi et al. (hereinafter Yagi). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness in that they fail to teach or suggest every element as set forth in Applicant's claims.

Applicant's arguments as set forth on pages 4 and 5 of the Amendment filed on November 1, 2002 are still pertinent and, therefore, are incorporated herein by reference.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A motor supporting device comprising:

a motor accommodating section [for] accommodating and holding a motor therein, and

a gear holding section that rotatably holds a gear for externally transmitting a driving force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section, which is monolithically formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding section.